

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully considered the Office Action, and respectfully submits that the subject application is now in condition for allowance based upon the amendments presented herein and the following remarks.

Status of Claims

The subject application was originally filed with 18 claims. In response to a restriction requirement, Applicant elected claims 1–7. Claims 8–18 were subsequently withdrawn by the Office. In prior amendments, Applicant amended claims 1, 5, and 7 and cancelled claims 3 and 4. In the present amendment, Applicant amended claim 1, cancelled claims 8–18, and added claims 19–33. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 5–7 and 19–33 will be pending.

Summary of Office Action

In the Office Action dated June 17, 2011, the Office rejected claims 1, 2, and 5–7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,089,549 issued to Vyse et al. (“Vyse”).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office rejected claims 1, 2, and 5–7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Vyse. Applicant traverses this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “a first internal surface extending from the open end and having a first internal diameter” and “a reduced internal diameter portion adjacent the first internal surface and having a second internal diameter less than the first internal diameter.” Support for this amendment may be found in Figures 6a, 7, and 9, and paragraphs [0034], [0037], and [0040]. No new matter has been added.

Vyse fails to disclose a reduced internal diameter portion. Instead, Vyse discloses a hose fitting (53) with a central fluid passage (58) having a substantially constant diameter. (*See* Figure 6 and col. 3, lines 38–43.) Nothing in Vyse can be fairly described as a tube having a reduced internal diameter portion adjacent the first internal surface and having a second internal diameter less than the first internal diameter. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.